



SHOT TALK



SAMHD Celebrates NIHW With Former First Lady

The San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (SAMHD) celebrated National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) with the Second Annual Vaccines for Children (VFC) Appreciation Breakfast held on April 16, 1999. The event was held at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. The speakers for the event included Rosalyn Carter and Betty Bumpers, Co-Founders, Every Child By Two, Mayor Howard Peak, Dr. Patti Patterson, Executive Deputy Health Commissioner for the State of Texas and Dr. Fernando A. Guerra, Director of Health, San Antonio Metropolitan Health District.

All VFC providers were invited to the breakfast and approximately 270 guests were in attendance. Thanks to all of our VFC providers for making time in their busy schedules to attend this special event. Special thanks go out to the following sponsors for making the event possible: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Texas Department of Health, Parent/Child Incorporated, MERCK, San Antonio Marriott Riverwalk, Hope for Kids, SmithKline Beecham, San Antonio Housing Authority, AVANCE, North American Vaccine and Pasteur Merieux Connaught.

The ACIP Recommends New Polio Schedule

On June 17, 1999, the Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted to change the



Betty Bumpers and Former First Lady Rosalyn Carter, at AVANCE in the Alazan Apache Courts April 16, 1999.

recommendation for routine childhood polio vaccination beginning in the year 2000 to a schedule using only the inactivated poliovirus vaccine (IPV). The vote does not become a final recommendation until it is accepted by CDC through publication in its "Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report" (MMWR) series.

If the recommendation is accepted by CDC, to be protected against polio, all children will need to get 4 doses of IPV at 2, 4, 6-18mo, and 4-6 years beginning in January 2000. The

committee voted that oral polio vaccine would be acceptable only in special circumstances.

Since 1979, the only polio disease in the United States has been caused by the oral poliovirus vaccine (OPV), which has been used routinely for childhood vaccination since 1965.

In the past two years, the sequential schedule has been well accepted. No declines in childhood immunization coverage were observed despite the need for additional injections. Due to this fact and the fact that the polio eradication campaign has led to continued declines in polio cases outside the United States, the ACIP determined that the recommended childhood polio vaccination schedule should be changed to an exclusive IPV schedule to completely eliminate the risk of VAPP while still providing protection to children and adults. Until polio is eradicated, all children still need to be vaccinated for polio.

Source: CDC 6/17/99

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VFC Program Grows

The VFC Program welcomes Dr. K. Job Chacko, First Steps Pediatrics and El Angel Medical Clinic.

Welcome Aboard!

Back to School Bash

The immunization requirements for children and students in Texas public and private schools, child-care facilities and institutions of higher education state that all immunizations should be completed by the time of enrollment in school. Even though this is a state requirement, we find that many children entering schools are not fully immunized.

All school requirements are based on the Recommended Childhood Immunization Schedule – United States, 1999 and approved by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP). Children on an ideal or optimum schedule, as recommended, will have received 5 doses of DTP/DTaP vaccine, 4 doses of polio vaccine, 3 or more doses of Hib vaccine, 3 doses of hepatitis B vaccine, 2 doses of MMR, and 1 dose of varicella vaccine by the time they enter kindergarten.

On April 18, 1999 the Texas Board of Health approved additional immunization requirements which are contingent on funding. Hepatitis B vaccine and varicella requirements for adolescents are scheduled to become effective August 1, 2000. Hepatitis A vaccine (in identified counties) for all ages was approved and scheduled to become effective August 1, 1999. By July 1 of each odd-numbered year, the Texas Board of Health will publish a statement on whether or not these vaccines have been funded and are required as specified.

In an effort to help students and parents comply with the state requirements for school entry, the SAMHD in cooperation with KTSA/KTFM radio stations are providing immunizations at the 7th **Annual Back-to-School Immunization Bash**. The Bash will be held at Crossroads Mall on July 31, 1999, from 10am-6pm. The goal is to raise awareness about immunizations and encourage our community to protect children from deadly diseases by immunizing them on time. The success of this event cannot be accomplished without the help of our community immunization partners. **Help spread the word about the Bash!** For more information you may contact Pamela Williams at 207-2869.

Source: Texas Department of Health, May 25, 1999.

Hepatitis A Required in 32 Counties

If funding is approved through the Texas Legislature a new requirement for hepatitis A vaccine will go into effect August 1, 1999. This requirement affects children who attend school or day-care in 32 counties along the Texas-Mexico border. In these counties, children two-years-old or older who were born on or after September 2, 1992, will be required to be vaccinated against hepatitis A.

The new hepatitis A requirement does not effect entry into schools or day cares in Bexar County. The 32 counties affected are: Brewster, Brooks, Cameron, Crockett, Culberson, Dimmitt, Duval, Edwards, El Paso, Frio, Hidalgo, Hudspeth, Jef Davis, Jim Hogg, Kenedy, Kinney, La Salle, Maverick, McMullen, Pecos, Presidio, Real Reeves, Star, Sutton, Terrell, Uvalde, Val Verde, Webb, Willacy, Zapata, Zavala. For more information on Hepatitis A requirements contact Vivian Flores at 207-2868.

Hepatitis A Study

The San Antonio Metropolitan Health District is currently

conducting a hepatitis A clinical vaccine study in one-year-old children. The study began in April 1999 and will continue through early next year.

The study is evaluating the immunogenicity and safety of the hepatitis vaccine, VAQTA, when given with and without routine childhood immunizations. Study subjects will make 4 visits to the SAMHD's Main Immunization Clinic over a period of 7 months. During this period, the subject will receive 2 doses of VAQTA, routine childhood vaccines and 3 blood draws to determine antibody titers. Eligible subjects must be between the ages of 12 and 13 months, have not received a MMR or varicella vaccination, and have already received 3 doses of DTaP/DTP and 2-3 doses of polio (IPV/OPV).

All immunizations given during the study are free of charge and a cash payment will be given to the parents after each visit. If you are interested in entering a child in the study or would like more information, please call Brenda Lemke at 207-2859.

Hepatitis B School-based Program Completes 3rd Year

During the 1998-99 school year, hepatitis B immunizations were the focus of the Adolescent Immunization Program in ten San Antonio area school districts. The SAMHD in cooperation with two VFC school providers administered over 11,500 hepatitis B immunizations to 2,000 fifth and sixth graders. Of the 2,000 who began the series over 1,500 completed the three dose series resulting in a 76% completion rate. Special thanks to all school nurses and staff who assisted in making the program a success.

Plans are underway to implement a reminder/recall system for those adolescents between the ages of 10 and 19 who have yet to start or complete the hepatitis B series. This system is designed to make parents

aware of the upcoming new school entry requirement **effective August 1, 2000**. Parents whose children need to be immunized for hepatitis B should contact their primary care physician or call the SAMHD at 207-8750 for a list of clinics offering this service.

Rotavirus Vaccine Update

Currently, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) projects that a Rotavirus vaccine contract will not be in place before January 1, 2000. The CDC recognizes the importance of establishing a contract as soon as possible, but believes it is not wise to do so until such time as sufficient amounts of vaccine can be guaranteed to meet the needs of all immunization projects.

Medicaid children can be vaccinated with Rotavirus vaccine with reimbursement to Medicaid health care providers through the Medicaid program. For more information contact your Medicaid liaison or Vivian Flores at 207-2868.

Source: CDC May 1999.

It's Federal Law!!

Before a health care provider vaccinates a child or an adult with a dose of DTaP, DTP, Td, MMR, Varicella, polio, Hib or hepatitis B vaccine, the provider is required by the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act to provide a copy of the Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) to either the adult vaccinee or the child's parent/legal guardian. The use of the VIS has been required since 1994.

VISs are also available for influenza, pneumococcal, and hepatitis A vaccines, and their use is recommended but not required by federal law. They are not required because these vaccines are not routinely recommended for children and are not covered by the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act.

Some of the legal requirements concerning the use of VISs are as follows:

1. Before a routine childhood vaccine is administered to anyone (this includes adults!) you must give the patient or parent/guardian a copy of the most current VIS available for that vaccine. Make sure you give your patient or parent/guardian time to read the VIS prior to the administration of the vaccine.
2. You must record in your patient's chart the date that the VIS was given.
3. You must also record in your patient's chart the publication date of the VIS, a date which appears on the bottom of the VIS. This is accomplished with the new immunization consent form in the vaccination history section.

Most Current Versions of VISs

As of June 1999, the most recent versions of the VISs are as follows:

- Ⓟ **DTaP/DT/DTP 8/15/97**
- Ⓟ **Td 6/10/94**
- Ⓟ **Polio 2/1/99**
- Ⓟ **Hepatitis A 8/25/98**
- Ⓟ **pneumococcal 7/29/97**
- Ⓟ **Influenza 7/1/98 changes annually**
- Ⓟ **MMR 12/16/98**
- Ⓟ **Varicella 12/16/98**
- Ⓟ **Hib 12/16/98**
- Ⓟ **Hepatitis B 12/16/98**
- Ⓟ **Rotavirus 3/23/99**

You are encouraged to check the edition dates of all VISs in your facility and purge any outdated versions. If you have questions regarding VISs you may contact Vivian Flores at 207-2868.

Source: Immunization Action Coalition April 1999.

Test Your Immunization Savvy

Answer true or false to these statements.

1. Mild illness is a reason to withhold vaccination. T or F
2. If a mother is breastfeeding, she shouldn't be vaccinated. T or F

3. A temperature should be routinely checked before vaccinations are administered to children. T or F
4. A pregnancy test should be routinely done on an adolescent girl prior to her receiving an MMR or Varicella vaccine. T or F
5. If there is an immunosuppressed child in the household, siblings should be given MMR and Varicella vaccines. T or F
6. If the first dose of hepatitis B vaccine was given more than one year ago, you should repeat the dose. T or F
7. MMR and Varicella vaccines can be given to a child whose mother is pregnant. T or F
8. When a person has an injury and needs protection against tetanus, tetanus toxoid (Tt) should be used instead of tetanus toxoid combined with diphtheria toxoid (Td). T or F
9. All health care workers (without contraindications) who have contact with patients should receive influenza vaccine. T or F

See page 4 for answers to the immunization quiz.

Source Immunization Action Coalition, 3/99

Immunization Websites

There are numerous immunization resources available via the Internet. The websites listed below offer a wealth of information on immunizations and other health related areas:

- Ⓟ San Antonio Metropolitan Health District at **www.ci.sat.tx/health**
- Ⓟ Texas Department of Health at **www.tdh.state.tx.us/immunize**
- Ⓟ National Immunization Program at **www.cdc.gov/nip/vfc/**
- Ⓟ Immunization Action Coalition at **www.immunize.org**
- Ⓟ The Immunization Gateway at **www.immuno** T or F **facts.com**
- Ⓟ Department of Health and Human Services at **www.hhs.gov/progorg/**

U.S. Federal Government Agencies at
www.lib.lsu.edu/gov/fedgov.html

The Vaccine Page at
<http://vaccines.com>

For more information or to access immunization histories on line call Vivian Flores at 207-2868.

What Do You Think?



The VFC Program has sent out its annual Provider Satisfaction Survey.

The goal of the survey is to gauge provider's satisfaction with the VFC program and to solicit input to improve the program. For the VFC program to continue to be successful, it is crucial that the SAMHD gather as many suggestions and criticisms as possible in order to tailor the VFC program to the needs of the medical community.

Last year's survey revealed providers concerns regarding SAMHD's registry system and the manner in which it was being accessed. These and all other critiques help SAMHD develop a program that is more effective in keeping children in their medical homes and removing cost as a barrier to immunization.

Thank you to all providers that have completed the survey. If you have not received a survey you may call Jorge Reyes at 207-2862. Please fax your completed surveys to 224-5710.

CASA

This spring marked the end of the first year that the VFC Program conducted Clinical Assessment Software Application (CASA) assessments. Thanks to all those providers who participated, it was a very productive and successful year. As we begin our second year, we are very enthusiastic in our desire to increase the number of offices participating and hope to return annually for assessments. There has been noted improvement in many

offices that participated in a CASA assessment in 1998. With VFC providers continued interest and support the goal of increasing immunization rates in San Antonio will be realized. If you are interested in participating in an assessment, please contact Shelly Johnson at 207-6917.

The VFC Program would like to thank the following providers for participating in a CASA assessment:

Alamo City Medical Group, Dwyer Clinic, Dr. Sara Apsley-Ambriz, Dr. Thuy Danh Do, University Family Health Center-Basse, Dr. Diane McMains, Northern Hills Medical Clinic, Dr. Fernando Guerra, Dr. Delio Garcia-Romeu, Dr. Gloria Abraham-Cox, ABCD Pediatrics, Dr. Pedro DeLeon, Dr. Janna Wilder, Dr. Francis Mueller, Windcrest Pediatric, University Pediatric Clinic, Dr. B. Nandakumar, Santa Rosa WIC, Dr. Salvador Garcia, Dr. Federico Padua, Lanier Student Based Clinic, San Antonio Pediatric Associates, Dr. Enrique Galan, Great Northwest Family Medical Center, Solomon/Anthony Pediatrics, Dr. Jose Karam, Wesley Primary Care Clinic, Dr. Rosalio Jalomo, Children's Shelter.

Foreign Travel Flies High

For over five years now the SAMHD has offered routinely recommended or required vaccinations for international travel. Consultative services are also available to travelers regarding their present immunization status and current health information about the countries they plan to visit. During 1998, over 4,300 immunizations were administered to over 2,700 clients traveling abroad.

Vaccinations and information for international travel are available by appointment, Monday through Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. The SAMHD Foreign Travel Clinic is located within the Immunization Center is at 345 W. Commerce. Travelers can call 207-8872 or 207-

8804 to schedule an appointment or obtain additional information.

National Immunization Conference Comes to Texas

The 33rd National Conference is being held June 22-25, 1999 in Dallas, Texas and will bring together a wide constituency of local, State, Federal and private-sector immunization partners to explore science, policy, education, and planning issues as they relate to both immunizations in general and vaccine preventable diseases. The SAMHD was chosen to give three oral presentations and two poster presentations highlighting the many successes of the immunization partnerships between the public and private providers in San Antonio.

Test Answers

Answers to the Immunization Quiz from page 2 are as follows: 1-F; 2-F; 3-F; 4-F; 5-T; 6-F; 7-T; 8-F; 9-T. Did you get an A+? If you missed any of these, you can find the explanations for these answers in previous issues of NEEDLE TIPS, the AAP's 1997 Red Book, or ACIP statements.

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Thank You for Your Support!

Have a Great Summer!